

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASST SEC KATZ FROM EB STAFF

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 8637 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 25 MAY.

UOTE: UNCLAS LONDON 08637

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US/UK BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

DOT FOR SECRETARY ADAMS AND MR. DAVID JEWELL

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE HEADED "US AIR THREAT
GENUINE," PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY TELEGRAPH MAY 25.

BEGIN QUOTE: MR. BROCK ADAMS, AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION
SECRETARY, "MEANT EVERY WORD" OF HIS THREAT TO CUT OFF
TALKS ON A NEW TRANSATLANTIC AIR AGREEMENT UNLESS BRITAIN
CAME UP WITH MEANINGFUL CONCESSIONS BY JUNE 2, HIS CHIEF
SPOKESMAN SAID IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY.

MR. DAVID JEWELL SAID THE AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS HAD BEEN
GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS THAT IF BRITAIN HAD NOT RADICALLY
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CHANGED HER POSITION BY "THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT ON JUNE 1,
WE'RE GOING TO PACK UP OUR BAGS AND GO HOME."

IF THE BRITISH WANT TO NEGOTIATE AFTER THAT, HE SAID,
"THEY CAN COME OVER TO WASHINGTON AND DO IT."

JUNE 22 DEADLINE

UNLESS THE TALKS DID REACH A CONCLUSION, HE ADDED, AIR
SERVICES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE HALTED WHEN

THE EXISTING PACT EXPIRED ON JUNE 22.

MR. JEWELL STRESSED THAT MR. ADAMS HAD NOT, AS HAD BEEN REPORTED, BEEN THREATENING A SUSPENSION OF TRAFFIC FROM THE EARLIER DEADLINE OF JUNE 2--THAT WAS THE DATE BY WHICH THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE SIGNS OF PROGRESS IN THE TALKS.

THOUGH BRITISH NEGOTIATORS INSIST THAT SOME PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN THE TALKS AND THAT A SETTLEMENT BY JUNE 22 IS AT LEAST POSSIBLE, MR. ADAMS IS FURIOUS THAT AMERICAN CONCESSIONS MADE SINCE THE TALKS RESUMED IN LONDON ON MAY 16 HAVE NOT MET A GREATER RESPONSE.

"WE'RE AN EXTREMELY LONG WAY FROM AN AGREEMENT," SAID MR. JEWELL. "THE OUTLOOK IS VERY GLOOMY."

"WE WON'T STICK AROUND WITH A PISTOL AT OUR HEADS FOR SOME 11TH-HOUR AGREEMENT TO BE HAMMERED OUT. IT'S TOO CLOSE FOR THIS KIND OF BUSINESS. WE'VE BEEN TALKING FOR A YEAR NOW."

WHILE MR. ADAMS' THREAT, MADE IN LONDON ON MONDAY, IS CLEARLY AN EFFORT TO FORCE BRITAIN'S HAND IN THE TALKS, HIS STAFF STRESSED THAT IT IS MORE THAN A NEGOTIATING PLOY AND THAT HE IS DETERMINED TO KNOW WHERE THE TRAVELING PUBLIC STANDS WELL BEFORE JUNE 22.

HIS WARNING REITERATED EARLIER STATEMENTS IN WASHINGTON THAT UNLESS AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, BRITISH PLANES WOULD FLY TO CANADA WITH AMERICAN SERVICES BEING DIVERTED TO THE CONTINENT. BUT IT WENT FURTHER, GIVING A DEADLINE FOR BRITISH CONCESSIONS.

BOTH SIDES ARE INSISTING THAT POINTS OF PRINCIPLE ARE AT STAKE ON WHICH THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO YIELD
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TOTALLY.

AND MR. ADAMS' BACKBONE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN STIFFENED BECAUSE PRESIDENT CARTER HAS EMPHASIZED TO BRITISH LEADERS HIS COMMITMENT TO "COMPETITION" ON THE LUCRATIVE NORTH ATLANTIC ROUTES, A DOCTRINE THE AMERICAN SIDE BELIEVES BRITAIN IS OUT TO SABOTAGE.

NOW THE AMERICAN SIDE WILL BE WAITING TO SEE WHETHER BRITAIN WILL COME UP SPEEDILY WITH CONCESSIONS SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN HOLDING BACK TILL THE LAST MINUTE.

BRITISH OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, FEEL THAT MR. ADAMS' THREAT HAS SOURED NEGOTIATIONS, AND THEY VERY MUCH HOPE THIS DAMAGE CAN BE REPAIRED.

HARDENED NEWSPAPERMEN, AS WELL AS WHITEHALL, WERE SHOCKED BY MR. ADAMS' ARROGANT SURPRISE STATEMENT ON MONDAY, SETTING THE JUNE 2 DEADLINE. THEY FELT HE WAS OVER-CONFIDENT AND UNNECESSARILY DOGMATIC WHEN ANSWERING QUESTIONS. END QUOTE MILLER
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